California MLPA North Coast Project Potential Special Closures Discussed by the North Coast Study Region Special Closures Work Group Revised May 18, 2010

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Potential Special Closure Name	General Location	Boundaries or Extent	Closure Time	Focus Species	Site Specific Rationale/ Justification	Uses Potentially Impacted	Other Comments/Clarification/ Important Information
Southwest Seal Rock Special Closure	St. George Reef	300 feet	Year-round	Steller sea lion	One of only two breeding locations for Steller sea lions - the other is Sugarloaf Island	Potential impacts to bottom fishermen, recreational fishers	It's not an easy area to get a boat close to, but is a popular area when conditions are favorable for getting out there.
Castle Rock Special Closure	Crescent City	300 feet	Year-round		One of the most important bird breeding areas along the California coast.	Recreational kayaking and small boat fishing.	Currently, Fish and Wildlife recommends a closure for Castle Rock of 500 feet. If it extended to 1000 feet then it starts to infringe on some popular beaches and boat travel lanes.
False Klamath Rock Special Closure	North of Klamath River Mouth	300 feet	Year-round	specifically Brandt's Cormorants	Brandt's Cormorants are struggling and particularly prone to disturbance from human activities.	Recreational kayaking and small boat fishing.	Even if this area is proposed within an MPA, it still may be considered for a special closure. The Redwood National and State parks jurisdiction overlaps this area so there is potential for comanagement or at least co-enforcement. The area is one of the most easily accessed beaches. Kayaks and other small boats occasionally go out here. Closeness to shore means potential disturbance from human users. If it extended to 1000 feet then it starts to infringe on some popular beaches.
Green Rock Special Closure	North of Trinidad Head	300 feet	Year-round	here, including	No MPAs proposed in this area in Round 1, so no benefits outside of potential special closure	Boat traffic between Green Rock and Flatiron Rock	Green Rock and Flatiron Rock are relatively close together and about 2000 feet offshore. Want to be sure to allow passage between the rocks.

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Flatiron Rock Special Closure	North of Trinidad Head	300 feet	Year-round	8 bird species found here, including Tufted Puffin and petrels. Also pinnipeds present.	area in Round 1, so no	Boat traffic between Green Rock and Flatiron Rock	Green Rock and Flatiron Rock are relatively close together and about 2000 feet offshore. Want to be sure to allow passage between the rocks. Low elevation rock - more exposure to boat disturbance.
False Cape Rock Special Closure	North of Cape Mendocino	300 feet	Year-round	Breeding seabirds, specifically Brandt's Cormorants	Brandt's Cormorants are struggling and particularly prone to disturbance from human activities. There are also pinnipeds that would gain benefits from this closure	Fishing, including charter boats	Opportunity to protect both bird and pinniped species.
Sugarloaf Island Special Closure		300 feet	Year-round	Steller sea lion	One of only two breeding locations for Steller sea lions - the other is Southwest Seal Rock	Fishing	Area is remote.
Steamboat Rock Special Closure	South of Cape Mendocino	300 feet	Year-round	Breeding seabirds, specifically Brandt's Cormorants	Brandt's Cormorants are struggling and particularly prone to disturbance from human activities.	Fishing	There is a larger Brandt's Cormorant population at False Cape Rock.
Rockport Rocks Special Closure		300 feet	Year-round	Breeding seabirds, specifically Brandt's Cormorants	Brandt's Cormorants are struggling and particularly prone to disturbance from human activities.	Fishing, recreational abalone divers	Private beach here so possibly not a lot of use.
Vizcaino Rock Special Closure	Cape Vizcaino	300 feet seaward of the rock	Year-round	Breeding seabirds	It is one of two most important nesting areas on this portion of the coast	Potential impact to urchin divers	Vizcaino Rock is surrounded by smaller, lesser rocks and has a very uneven bottom so is not really visited by commercial fisherman (including crab fishermen). It is just barely offshore. It is an exposed point and getting to the rock is difficult (it is off an area that is pretty inaccessible from land), probably not even accessible at a low low tide. It is fairly close to Rockport Bay, but the bay is not well-used because the beach is owned by lumber company that doesn't give many use permits.